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IMPORTANT INTIMATION.
NOW READY.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST," A DIRECTORY AND WORK OF REFERENCE ON ALL IMPORTANT LOCAL SUBJECTS FOR HONGKONG, MACAO, CHINA, JAPAN, THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, SIAM, IND-CHINA, NORTH BORNEO, THE PHILIPPINES, AND CORRA, FOR THE YEAR 1891.

PRICE THREE DOLLARS.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY" has again been enlarged and is THE CHEAPEST, MOST COMPLETE, AND ONLY RELIABLE WORK OF THE KIND PUBLISHED IN THE FAR EAST.

THE above named work, published at the Office of "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH," contains a Directory for the Ports in the large portion of Asia comprised between Penang, in the Straits Settlements, and the Northern Chinese Ports, including Vladivostok, Formosa, the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, Coochin-China, the Philippine Islands, Corea, British North Borneo, the British Colony of Hongkong, and the Portuguese Colony of Macao. It also contains the Principal Treaties between European countries and the United States and the countries East of the Straits, including the Treaties and Conventions between China and Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, the United States of America, Brazil, Japan, Peru, Spain, and Portugal; together with conditions of Trade, and the Port, Customs, Consular, and Harbour Regulations for the Ports of China and Japan; also descriptions of the various Ports, with the latest Trade Statistics taken from the Reports of the Imperial Maritime Customs and other reliable sources.

The various Governments and Municipal Corporations, and all Public Bodies and Companies, Bankers, Merchants, Consuls, Professional men, and other Residents, have supplied the necessary matter, upon forms specially sent for that purpose so as to ensure accuracy. The Naval and Military portions have been taken from the latest published official lists and revised at Headquarters; in fact, no pains have been spared to make "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" a handy and perfectly reliable book of reference for all classes.

In addition to the information enumerated above "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" for 1891 contains a carefully revised INDEX TO THE ORDINANCES OF HONGKONG.

A SPECIAL LIST OF FOREIGNERS employed in Steamers making short voyages from Hongkong.

THE PRIVATE RESIDENCES of the Principal Government Officials, the Leading Merchants, the Foreign Consuls, Professional Men, Justices of the Peace, &c.

A LADIES DIRECTORY FOR HONGKONG;

The latest and only reliable PLAN OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA, showing the proposed Reclamations and all recent additions and improvements.

A Mass of interesting information on various subjects, culled from the most trustworthy sources.

A SPECIAL FEATURE IN THIS PUBLICATION WILL BE A CHAPTER ON SPORT, (amended and corrected to date) dealing with almost every branch of the subject, including RACING, CRICKET, ATHLETICS, AQUATICS, &c., &c., &c.

The WINNERS of all IMPORTANT RACES at HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, FOCHOW, and AMOY, with times, and other interesting particulars, carefully culled from the most reliable sources, make "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" a *valuable medium* for all classes of sportsmen.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" for 1891 is printed on a superior quality of paper, and is the best printed and most handsomely bound volume ever published East of the Suez Canal.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST," in order that it may circulate extensively outside this Colony, is published at a POPULAR PRICE, and can be ordered at this Office, or through any of our Agents at the various Ports for

THREE DOLLARS.

There is not space in the compass of an Ordinary Advertisement to detail all the information introduced into the work, but it may be fairly asserted that no such Directory has ever been published, either in Hongkong or any other part of the East, at such a low price.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" offers Special Advantages as an Advertising Medium. It has an extensive circulation in all Ports between Singapore and Newchwang, in the Australian Colonies, the United States, and the United Kingdom, and the scale of charges has been fixed at an exceptionally low rate. Terms can be learned on application.

Suggestions for the improvement of this work are respectfully solicited.

Orders for COPIES, and for ADVERTISEMENTS may be sent to the Agents at the various Ports, or to the Office of "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" FRIDAY'S HILL, HONGKONG. Hongkong, 19th January, 1891.

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED, DISPENSING CHEMISTS, &c.

CHEMISTS AND AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

DAKIN'S SELTZER WATER, CONTAINS THE TRUE SELTZER SALTS.

Makes a more palatable drink with spirits than Soda Water.

NO LOWERING TENDENCY.

IN LARGEST SIZE BOTTLES,

CENTS 50 PER DOZEN.

(Telephone No. 50.)

No. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1891. [37]

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.)

HONGKONG.

WE invite attention to the following old

lauded Brands, all of which are of

excellent quality and good value for the money.

The same, being specially selected by our

London House, and bought direct from the most

noted Shippers, are imported in wood and bottled

by ourselves, thus enabling us to supply the

best goods at moderate prices.

In ordering it is only necessary to state

the name and quantity of Wine or Spirit wanted,

and initial letter for quality desired.

Orders through Local Post or by Telegram

receive prompt attention.

PORTS. (For Invalids and general use.)

Per Dozen. Per Case.

A Alto Douro, good quality,

Green Capsule 10 1.00

B Vintage, Superior quality,

Red Capsule 10 1.10

C Fine Old Vintage, superior

quality, Black Seal Capsule 14 1.25

D Very Fine Old Vintage, extra

superior, Violet Capsule (Old Bottled) 18 1.50

SHERRIES.

A Delicate Pale Dry, dinner

wine, Green Capsule 6 0.60

B Superior Pale Dry, dinner

wine, Green Seal Capsule, 7-50 0.75

C Manzanilla, Pale Natural

Sherry, White Capsule 10 1.00

CC Superior Old Dry, Pale

Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule 10 1.00

D Very Superior Old Pale

choice, old wine, White Seal Capsule 14 1.50

E Extra Superior Old Pale

Dry, very finest quality, Black Seal Capsule (Old Bottled) 14 1.50

CLARETS.

A Superior Breakfast Claret,

Red Capsule 4 0.40

B St. Emilion, Red Capsule, 4-50 0.50

C St. Julien 7 0.70

D La Rose 11 1.00

BRANDY.

A Hennessy's Old Pale, Red

Capsule 12 1.10

B Superior Very Old Cognac,

Red Capsule 14 1.25

C Very Old Liqueur Cognac,

Red Capsule 18 1.50

D Hennessy's Finest Very Old

Liqueur Cognac, 1872 Vin- tage, Red Capsule 24 2.00

SCOTCH WHISKY.

A Thorne's Blend, White Cap- sule 8 0.75

B Watson's Glenorchy Mellow

Blend, Blue Capsule with Name and Trade Mark 8 0.75

C Watson's Abolour-Glenorchy,

Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark 8 0.75

D Watson's H K D Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt

Whiskies, Violet Capsule 10 1.00

E Watson's Very Old Liqueur

Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule 12 1.10

IRISH WHISKY.

A John Jameson's Old, Green

Capsule 8 0.75

B John Jameson's Fine Old,

Green Capsule 10 1.00

C John Jameson's Very Fine

Old, Green Capsule 12 1.10

GRUINER, BOURBON WHISKY, fine old, Red Capsule, with Name. 10 1.00

GIN.

A Fine Old Tom, White Capsule 4-50 0.40

B Fine Unsweetened, White Capsule 4-50 0.40

C Fine A. V. H. Genera 4-50 0.40

RUM.

Finest Old Jamaica, Violet Capsule 12 1.00

Good Lecward Island, \$1.50 per Gallon.

LIQUEURS.

Benedictine Maraschino

Curaçao Henrich's Cherry Cordial

Chartreuse Dr. Siegel's Angostura

Bitters, &c.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY

REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS

MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1891.

TELEGRAMS.

PREPARING FOR ACTION.

LONDON, April 29th.

H.M.S. Raleigh has left Cape Town for the East coast of Africa, conveying field guns and stores.

MORE INFLUENZA.

Influenza has broken out in London.

ANOTHER CHILIAN IRONCLAD.

DESTROYED.

The Huascar has been sunk by a torpedo.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THERE will be a game of polo at Causeway Bay to-morrow, commencing at 4.45 p.m.

A REGULAR meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

FROM an edict in the Peking Gazette we observe that Li Shu-chang, who was degraded while acting as Chinese Minister to Japan, has been re-installed in his former rank as Taotai.

A LENGTHY and important report by the Surveyor-General on the progress of the ordinary and extraordinary public works in 1890 is unavoidably held over for want of space.

"LET me see—a cynic is a man who is tired of the world, is he not?" said Grubbinus after reading the leading article in the Telegraph last Wednesday night. "No, old chap," replied Scrubbinus, "a cynic is a man of whom the world is tired."

A CORONER's jury in Vermont was given three days in which to reach a verdict on a boiler explosion, and they finally decided: "Bill Stevens was a pretty careful man, but we find that he let the water in his boiler get too low while playing a game of cards."

THE calendar of probates and administrations granted by the Supreme Court during 1890 is contained in a return tabled at the Legislative Council yesterday. It hardly shows a case of a single white man leaving over \$10,000, but lots of paltry sums. But the shoal of bankruptcies showed liabilities to the amount of \$112,353 proved (out of \$192,000 admitted in schedule) and \$5,154 got in assets, out of \$157,766 alleged to be existent. So that the Pagoda Tree wouldn't seem to flourish any more, to say exactly.

WHEN we were—well, in another place—the Rev. S. W. Stagg wrote us from Kirkby-le-Soken, Essex, Colchester, to let us know how old Miss, the Enock Anderson of the Caucasus, was getting on. The ancient mariner has nearly 60, which will very likely keep him as long as he needs keeping, for he told us before he left Hongkong that he was "slightly tight." Mr. Stagg says he is very comfortable—fresher than the brother he lives with, notwithstanding his hacking-up among the Kanakas, and his years of savage existence. So you good people who subscribed to help a poor old man who was "on the rocks"—and there wasn't a *teufel* among you—have not done so in vain.

AT the Harbour Master's Office this morning, before Com. W. C. Hastings, R.N., Acting Marine Magistrate, the master of the steam launch *Wing Foo*, was charged with carrying 48 passengers in excess of his license on the 25th ult. The ancient mariner was charged, and the defendant was fined \$50—two shillings per man. Chang Tung, master of the steam launch *Sun Ma* was similarly charged, with carrying 21 passengers in excess, and was fined \$77—two pence per man and \$15 for the rubber. Chan Po, master of the *Po Hong* steam launch, was fined \$50 for a similar offence. The latter defendant, who was carrying 30 persons in his unlicensed launch, alleged that the passengers were his master's family who were going to Chek Wan to worship at the temple. The Chinese launches have lately done very good business, running first to Kowloon and now to the Chek Wan festival, and it evidently pays to risk these little affairs, as the fines were forked out at once.

SAID an American contemporary—"The Emperor William has his prejudices, and among them is a very pronounced one against the Jews." It is understood that he has privately intimated to the Prince of Wales that it will not be at all agreeable to him to meet the Prince's millionaire Jewish friends when he visits London this summer. This hint has made it necessary for the Prince of Wales to delicately, but firmly suggest to Baron Hirsch that business affairs of an important character should require his attention on the Continent about the time that the Emperor reaches London. Baron Rothschild has also been warned that he should look to his gardens out at his country seat about the same time. Reuben Sassoon has been convinced that his health will make it necessary for him to go to Brighton at the very moment William leaves Berlin, and it is on the cards that Baron Reuter is to be taken on a tour of the Continent to supplement this task must have been to the Prince of Wales may be appreciated by the fact that it is, on all, Baron Hirsch who has just lost him \$1,000,000 without interest.

ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Statistics for April, 1891.

In-Patients remaining in Hospital on 1st April 66

In-Patients admitted to Hospital during April 60

Total number treated as In-Patients 126

Of these there were:

Discharged cured 35

Discharged relieved 22

Discharged on other grounds 4

Died in Hospital 1

In-Patients remaining in Hospital on 1st May 64

Out-Patients, new cases 508

Out-Patients, return visits 491

Total number of Out-Patients visits 1099

Operations 10

Vaccinations 9

Dental cases 10

Casualty cases 6

JOHN C. THOMSON, M.A., M.B., Superintendent.

AND this is fame. Says an American paper—"Siam, which is well known on account of its justly renowned Siamese Twins, will build its first railroad this year." Our contemporary is probably not aware that Siam is also renowned for its "white elephants."

AT the Police Court this afternoon, before Mr. Wise, two of the three men charged with keeping a gambling house in East Street on the 25th ult. surrendered to bail. On the morning of the day in question Inspector Hennessy broke into the house and arrested the three men, who were managing the place. This afternoon Mr. Mossop, who defended, said the house was a club, but he did not call any witness to prove that fact. Mr. Wise, after hearing the evidence of the Police and informers, considered the charge proved, and sentenced each of the defendants to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. A warrant for the third man's arrest was granted, and the \$200 bail was exonerated.

AT the Legislative Council meeting yesterday the Registrar-General's returns of the "batches" and "dispatches" for 1890 were tabled. The total number of births among the British and foreign community was 167, or 15.22 per 1000, and of deaths 188, or 17.14 per 1000. But as 40 of the 188 were non-residents—tourists or people sent here to receive medical treatment—unobtainable in coast-ports, this ratio is considerably lowered. The Chinese new arrivals numbered 1450, 7.72 per 1000; and the departures totalled 4953, or 23.25 per 1000. The terrible *trismus nascentium*—infantile lockjaw—was responsible for 277 and 253 deaths at the Asile de la Ste. Enfance and the Italian Convent respectively. Is it excess, or want of, Godfrey's Cordial?

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:

Messrs. Danby, Leigh and Orange \$ 25
China Export, Import, and Bank Co. 10
F. A. Cooper, Esq. 10
A. M. Eschbayer, Esq. 10
R. Hallibbroy, Esq. 10
P. B. Cama, Esq. 10
D. B. Cama, Esq. 10
E. D. Kowloon, Esq. 10
F. Jameson, Esq. 10
I. G. 10
P. Jameson, Esq. 10
P. Jameson, Esq. 10

A NEW YORK telegram to the San Francisco paper, dated March 25th, says:—"There is no truth in the statement that the Chinese residents of New York, in connection with their Consul here, are getting up a mammoth petition to the Chinese Minister at Washington, protesting against Senator Blair as Minister to China, so say Sun Hon, Secretary of the Merchants' Union, and Wen Wing Taw, the Mayor of Chinatown. 'We think,' added the Mayor, 'that President Harrison is our friend; but if he chooses to send an enemy to China as his Minister we cannot help it. We have no redress.' 'If Blair goes to our country,' said Ah Wh, the Delmonico of Pell Street, 'he will soon change his mind. He will go into the police station and see the Chinese hoodlums who will throw stones at him, pull his hair, or pluck his beard.'"

GLAD tidings for shipowners and masters! Chang Chih-tung's white elephant, otherwise the Canton river barrier, erected at the time of the recent Franco-Chinese war, has been about three parts removed, and it is confidently predicted by those who should know about what they predict in this connection that the whole obstruction will be away by the first of next month, thus making it possible for deep-draft steamers to get up to Canton and there discharge, instead of having to tranship their cargoes into boats and junks at Whampoa. The recent activity of the Chinese authorities in this matter is, we are fully assured, solely owing their desire to diminish the cost of transport of the enormous quantities of rice which, owing to the long-continued drought and failure of last year's autumn crops in Kwangtung province, it is, and will for some months be, necessary for them to import from Yangtze grain ports—Wuhu and Chinkiang. There can be but little doubt that had the barrier not been the cause of the wily heathen Chinese losing slightly, with every prospect of booking further losses, the noble brother of the Great Viceroy would not have thought of setting about the removal of the useless barriers in the year of grace 1891. Hardly.

A ROMANCE OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

It was in the Middle Ages.
It was somewhere near Peru,
Someone found a silver sceptre
In a field—the tale is true!
Which to somebody he mentioned
Who was going out to dine;
In a week he had expanded
From a sceptre to a mine.
Then a company promoter,
And surveyors by the score,
With tinminers and miners
Came and landed on that shore.
Then they spent a month prospecting
With a magnifying glass,
Building up with many chukies
Quite a cheery little farm.
They returned to Merrie England,
And they nursed their little scheme,
Till they brought out a prospectus,
Which was quite a poet's dream!
For it told of wealth enormous
Lying buried in the ground,
And which only wanted raising
Having been already found.

Then the public they invited,
With a lot of tender soap,
To come and see that sceptre
Through a monster microscope;
And the capital was stated
At a hundred thousand pounds,
Into five pound shares divided—
Now refreshing all this sounds!
Then the public rushed to buy them,
Till a five pound share cost eight,
And a few people murmured
That they always were too late.
Thus this company was floated
In a month or two, they say;
But the capital it floated
In a very different way.
For the finder of the sceptre
Well, of course he took a third,
The promoter took another,
Then the lawyers—"was absurd—
The surveyors and financiers
Took as much as it would yield,
Thus leaving the investors
With the sceptre—and the field.
This was in the Middle Ages!
You'll remember that, I trust,
When the world was very wicked,
And man's morals apt to rust;
Now, of course, it couldn't happen,
Men are good, and true, and kind,
And I've seen the latest notion
What has brought it to my mind.

D.—TALK me what you think of my last poem in the *Daily Press*? I want to finish it, as I have other lines in the fire, C.—I should withdraw the lines and insert the poem.

ABOUT 7.45 last night the Indo-China Co.'s steamer *Roostang* collided with a two-masted ballast, laden junk in the Cap-sul-mun Pass, on her way from Whampoa hither. The seven men on board were saved by a Chinese Customs launch.

AT the Magistracy, this morning, before Mr. Wise, Yung Fong and Ngan Su, washermen, were charged at the instance of Mr. King, land bailiff, with erecting a washed and washing frame, above the Albany Service Reservoir on Crown land yesterday. The defendants admitted the charge, and were each fined \$50, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment.

THE organisers of the Garrison Practice Dance were entertained last evening to a complimentary Quadrille Party at the City Hall by a number of Civilians who during the winter months had been the guests of the Garrison at their enjoyable practices in the Commissariat Buildings. The St. Andrew's and St. George's Halls were tastefully decorated in honor of the occasion, and with music supplied by the Regimental Band, under Conductor Hill, dancing was kept up to an early hour this morning. A most enjoyable evening was spent by one and all, and every praise is due to the committee for the manner in which they had worked to make it so successful.

A DEBTOR'S EXPERIENCES IN VICTORIA GAOL.

(BY A VICTIM.)

Let me supplement your series of interesting articles on prison life in Victoria, Gaol by giving you a short account of how those poor devils, whose only crime consists in being unable to pay their bills, manage to rub along. The prelude to an arrest for debt is a very simple formally indeed—the debtor is accosted in the street by a bailiff. "What's your first move to make?" "Can you settle this little account?" "No," is generally the ready reply. "Well," retorts the bailiff, laying his hand on the debtor's shoulder, "come along with me." If any explanation is attempted a rough push adds force to the order to "come along." To a man whose sole experience of a prison consists of having seen its walls from the outside, and who never in his life dreamt of being ignominiously arrested in a public thoroughfare, this is a severe blow. In a few minutes he is within the precincts of H. M. Gaol and is led before the Punjabi scribe. At this point the warrant of his arrest is handed him, and a copy of an affidavit is shown him to the effect that Messrs. Short & Co. have sworn that he has refused to pay his bill and that he is about to leave the Colony. In vain he protests against this affirmation, but the bailiff turns a deaf ear to all that is said, saying that that is not his business, and can only be explained to his lordship. "What he wants," he says, "is the money, or security from someone for the debtor's appearance before the Chief Justice on such-and-such a date. If not," he continues, addressing the Punjabi scribe already referred to, "will you take charge of this prisoner, and after a final summons to his prisoner to try to get some friend to pay or stand security, he departs, fully conscious of having fulfilled

other than a European, so many days at the "crank."

No letter can be received or written without the Superintendent or Chaplain having read it previous to forwarding. The note paper has a whole lot of rules and regulations printed on one side, and must form part of the letter, so that those ashamed at having to use such paper, refrain from corresponding. To debtors no limit is placed as to the number of letters they may receive, but when they are handed the solitary sheet of paper and envelope they are warned that no more will be furnished until the ensuing week, or until they obtain this single sheet they must first of all ask permission to see the Superintendent, and after waiting until that autocrat has dispatched the prisoners brought before him for various offences against prison regulations, a very humble air must be affected to crave his authority for this favour.

The window of the European room (or what should be, only it is always occupied by Chinese) overlooks the Police Court, and some time back it was the practice of the friends of certain of the detained debtors to supply them through this, by means of a cord, with many little delicacies which the prison authorities would not allow to pass in the proper way, but like many other things this was winked at, until, so the story runs, one evening the Superintendent was sitting on the verandah above, when he heard strange sounds of revelry proceeding from below, and it was found on investigation that the whole of the European prisoners in the debtors' ward were to extremely high spirits and very happy, and the room smelt more like the tap-room of a "pub" than a prison cell. On a search being made, two whisky bottles were found, one empty and the other half full of the exhilarating liquor. The bottles had been passed up from below through the window by means of a piece of string. These were the last, however, that came in this way, for the wire netting referred to was immediately placed over the bars, and thus all further smuggling was prevented in that particular direction.

As was once remarked in Court by Chief Justice Sir James Russell, the debtors' prison is greatly abused by unrelenting creditors. A truer remark was never made, and the sooner the Hongkong "Fleet" is abolished the better for the good name of the colony.

CHINESE WASH-HOUSES IN HONGKONG.

A SCANDALOUS STATE OF AFFAIRS.

When our "Special Inquirer's" exposed the disgusting condition of the Chinese wash-houses in this colony was published in these columns last September it was intimated that the distinctly insanitary state of Chinese wash-houses would be dealt with in due course, with a view to throwing some light upon the cause and development of certain troublesome skin diseases amongst the Chinese population of the colony. Facts have now been collected and show that one reading will perceive, a state of affairs which should receive the earnest and prompt consideration of the general public, whose health is jeopardised by the utter lack of the most ordinary precautions adopted in many or almost all parts of the world in respect to an industry which, if carried on in a slovenly manner, cannot fail to have an injurious effect on the general health of the community, and at times lead to the rapid spread of deadly epidemics.

An inspection of several of the eighty native wash-houses situated in the crowded central, western and eastern districts of this city of Victoria, as well as of the creeks and nullahs which meet the waters of the harbour at Causeway Bay and in the neighbourhood of the now defunct Wharf Station, on the Shau-ki-wan Road, has confirmed all the rumours and the suspicions as to the absolute necessity for the establishment of public laundries under Government supervision.

The establishments of Chinese washermen are to be found in almost all the lanes and by-ways of the city, particularly in the central district. Some of them, where the population is most dense, as in the neighbourhood of Hollywood Road and Lok Hing Lane, have but one room. Here they collect the dirty clothes (hundreds of pieces at times), sort and book them and tie up in bundles ready for transportation to the wash-houses at Tung Lung Chao, near Causeway Bay, where almost all the actual washing of clothes, etc., done in the colony is carried on. For the establishments in the city are virtually nothing more than receiving and distributing depots, wherein the "pieces" are, as it were, stored, and where, before being sent out to the wash-tubs and brooms, the washmen, everything is necessarily jumbled together indiscriminately—ladies' dresses and petticoats, gents' drawers and singlets, fever-stricken patients' garments and bed-clothing, and Chinese demitasses, pantaloons and Lyons silk stockings may all be found in a single tub of semi-purified slush which is supposed to be (and was doubtless at one time) soap-suds and pure water. But this indiscriminate mixture of clothing is a matter for grave consideration when the fact is ascertained that hundreds of pieces of clothing and bed linen from the hospitals of the colony are distributed broadcast throughout the wash-houses of the colony every week, and the evil is perhaps much greater than those who "give out" the washing imagine, for the simple reason that at times the washermen favoured with the patronage of public hospitals have more than a few hundred pieces to their "chums," who, many and often close, are also the "washmen" of public schools and other respectable institutions. This children often become stricken with diseases which at once appeal and distress their parents and teachers.

Before going into details of the *modus operandi* adopted by the washmen at Tung Lung Chao, Wharf, and even as far out as Quarry Bay, it may serve a useful purpose if a brief description of the average washerman's city depot is given. Picture to yourself a basement-room, 14 ft. by 8 ft., in one of the crowded lanes of Tai-ping, "Asian" the walls literally filling with filth, the roof of many years' dirt, the floor of the whitewashed wash, now coated with a crust of dark-grey conglomerate of sand, mud, tobacco-ash, saliva and every species of dust and filth and crushed remain shaken out of the clothes during the sorting and booking process; common deal trestles for ironing, under which two or three planks are laid for the "boots" washmen's dozen or so of *employees* to sleep on at night (in the summer) or for the trestle, though, in the summer, a foot or two below the smoke-begrimed ceiling a number of bamboo poles from which there are suspended a great variety of male and female articles of clothing; in one corner a small three-dollar stove giving forth considerable heat; upon this rest the ironers' implements; in another corner a pile of firewood, coke, and Calcutta soap in cakes as hard as a brickbat and resembling a compound of coarse brown sugar and sand, jumbled up together in a slatternly confusion; a foot or two further on, and you find yourself in what serves for a cook-house, where a dirty coolie who stands within two feet of a foul-smelling latrine is endeavouring to boil a pound or two of rice with the aid of half a dozen cups of slush and a lump of two of coals; the atmosphere (what with the heat of the stove, the

smell of dirty clothes, and the smell of the ironers and soot) as in an ill-ventilated chapel common lodging-house, and you have, it may be safely averred, a fairly accurate idea of the den in which your clothing is dealt with by the ordinary celestial washerman. It is not a very nice place, but such it is nevertheless, such it has been for the past fifty years in this colony, and such it will remain until the regulations relative to public laundries, which were passed at a meeting of that mysterious body the Sanitary Board on the 14th of November last, are, with certain necessary amendments, put into operation—and the sooner it is done, the better for the credit of the Board in question and the health of the community. The sum of \$25,000 was included in the estimates of this year for public laundries and yet three months have passed over our heads with nothing done to ameliorate this disgraceful condition of affairs. To sum up the city *debts*, it may be honestly asserted that not in one, out of many visited, was there anything like the air, space, height and absence of latrine proximity that would supply the elementary conditions to be demanded in satisfactory clothes washing.

And now as regards the actual system of scouring the clothes as witnessed at Tung Lung Chao (East Point) and other places. Firstly the clothes are put in a huge cauldron of warm water in which soap of the kind above-mentioned and a dash of soda have been mixed up to the consistency of pea-soup—twenty, thirty, and fifty pieces at a time, according to the number of the tub. In this tub they are stirred about, and then stirred about they are then partially wrung out and put into another tub where the water is not so thick as in the cauldron and thence on and on from one tub to another until at last they are clean (?) enough to be taken out and "ducked" in a stream, to wash the soap-suds and slush out of them. They are then wrung 'out and spread over the hill-side, when the weather is fine, to dry. But when the weather is hazy or Jupiter

Phoebus sends down showers to quench the thirst of the parched land, then comes the "pub"—the clothes hastily rolled up in all sorts of shapes are piled in reeking hovels for a day or two in the hope that the weather will clear up, and failing to do so, after a lapse of thirty or forty hours "John" takes the clothes into his city *depot*, and after firing up his stove, bangs the "pieces" on the bamboo suspended from the ceiling! The rest needs no description, the most innocent of imbeciles surely could not fail to realise the facts. Some idea, it may be added, of the need for proper supervision may be gathered from the fact that hundreds of pieces are passed through the same water daily, and that the first, the soap-suds and soda solution, becomes towards evening as black and abominable and evil smelling as the slush raked out of the bottom of a city sewer in summer time!

Keen competition, high rents, the rise in the price of soap, soda, blue etc., all tend to make the existence of Chinese washermen—at one time a No. 1 *business*—a mere hand-to-mouth existence, as a careful inquiry into the status of the washman will speedily demonstrate.

Without public wash-houses and public Chinese baths, for the use of which the Chinese should be charged the lowest possible fees, no diminution of the horrors of the present washing system with its attendant evil effects on the health of the public—many of whom suffer from ringworm, itch, and other disgusting diseases, contracted through contact with infected clothing—can be reasonably expected; and to prove to our readers that there must have been a scandalous neglect of public interests in some direction we subjoin a copy of a draft of public laundry regulations, which were approved by the Sanitary Board on the 14th November last, and forwarded to the Government, with a recommendation that they should be carried into effect without delay.

"That the accommodation, considered most suitable for each public laundryman carrying on business in Victoria is (a) a washing room, (b) a drying room, (c) an ironing room, (d) a dwelling room, consisting of two living rooms, a kitchen, &c., &c., (e) a drying ground.

"The number of public laundries in the city at the present time is sixty-four.

"The number of public laundries using the streams above the west end of the Kennedy Road for their wash-houses is ten.

"The committee recommend that in the first instance a set of wash houses consisting of ten separate establishments be erected at Wanchai, and that after some little experience of the working of these wash-houses two other sets of at least double the size of this set be erected—one at the east end of the town, and the other at the west end. It is also strongly recommended that in letting the first set of wash houses preference should be given to the laundrymen now carrying on their business above the Kennedy Road, because the streams in which they now wash their clothing are being formed into open masonry nullahs, and in a very short time it will no longer be possible for them to carry on the washing part of their business in this locality.

"The committee further recommend that it should not be made compulsory for laundrymen to rent the public wash-houses, but that it should be left to themselves to rent them or not as they consider most advantageous to themselves. It is, however, a matter of public importance that laundries should be kept in a proper sanitary condition, and it is, therefore, urged that by-laws be made as soon as possible under subsection 23 of section 13 of the Health Ordinance, and that they be gradually but firmly enforced. If this is done, and the public washmen prefer to fit up suitable places for themselves in which to carry on their business, an urgent public requirement will be fairly adequately met by private enterprise.

"The public nuisance arising from the washing of clothing in public streams is well known and requires no comment. With a view to preventing the spreading of this nuisance to other streams, the committee strongly recommend that steps be at once taken to prevent the formation of *ad hoc* washing establishments in streams, not already used for such a purpose. This can readily be done by the police prosecuting, for committing a nuisance, any person found polluting a new stream by establishing tanks for the washing of clothing therein.

(Signed) S. BROWN.
N. J. EDE.
N. G. MITCHELL-INNES.

A letter from the Surveyor-General to the Colonial Secretary, which was laid on the table, stated that the sum of \$25,000 was included in the estimates of this year for public laundries. It further stated that the site of the proposed new laundries was Crown land, a portion of which was occupied by squatters under a squatter's license. As it would be necessary to remove the squatter, he proposed to give him fair compensation for the value of his buildings.

A minute was appended by Dr. Canlie, who suggested that the steam disinfecter erected near the Docks Home be either removed to near the site of the new laundries or that it be placed at the service of the public more readily than it is at present.

In the Surveyor-General's latest report, dated the 28th February, he states that on the recommendation of a Committee of the Sanitary Board

a site for the first experimental block of public laundries has been approved near the junction of the Kennedy and Wanchai Gap Roads. The working drawings have been prepared, and the buildings will be commenced as soon as the site is cleared.

THE JAPANESE NAVAL ARTIST.

At the Magistrate's this morning, before Mr. Wise, Okuda, sub-lieutenant on the Japanese cruiser *Kongo*, was called up to receive sentence in the case heard yesterday, in which he was convicted of making a sketch of Belcher's Fort. He pleaded ignorance of the law.

His Worship said—I found yesterday that the defendant had been guilty of a breach of the law under this Ordinance, but as it was practically the first offence under the Ordinance I had the case adjourned for a day, in order to consider thoroughly what penalty should be imposed. The defendant pleaded ignorance of the law, and if he had been a civilian it might have been some excuse. But as he is a naval officer, he should know perfectly well that it is no excuse whatever. Under these circumstances I think it my duty to fine him \$100.

A book was produced by the police in which defendant had other sketches, but his Worship could not consider that. Only the one sketch in question was before him.

The Japanese Consul paid the fine, and the defendant was released.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

A PEACEFUL TRIUMPH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." SIR,—Permit me through the medium of your columns to call the attention of masters and officers of the British Merchant Service to the fact that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance, to restrict the loading and discharging of cargoes in certain waters of this Colony" was read a first time at the meeting of the Legislative Council held here yesterday morning. That the efforts of this Association and its friends to cause the abolition of a custom which is deemed a great hardship and injustice by members of the profession generally, both on home-going and coasting steamers, has so far resulted in complete success is undeniable, and it is with feelings of unqualified pleasure that I make this announcement and heartily congratulate you upon the measure of success attained by the force of reason and arguments based upon facts—not by means of violent outbursts of indignation, justifiable and otherwise, such as brought trouble and misery upon tens of thousands of our countrymen in the Australasian colonies last autumn.

In thus briefly referring, on the spur of the moment, to what is, I presume, practically a "Sunday Observance" I am conscious of doing without paying a brief tribute to the public press, which has, from first to last, been pleased to accord the movement the inestimable assistance of its support.

As I shall avail myself of an early opportunity of speaking publicly upon this subject, dealing with the new Bill clause by clause, I refrain from further trespassing upon your valuable space at the present juncture.

Yours faithfully,
SAMUEL ASHTON,
President,
British M. M. O. Association.
College Chambers,
Hongkong, 30th April, 1891.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

BERLIN, April 1st.
The general opinion here is that no serious complications will grow out of the Ewa incident. The *National Zeitung* says: "Even if those lynched were American citizens, which is in no wise proved, the tone of the American press leaves no doubt that Italy is justified in her anxiety for the welfare of her subjects in America. The *Vossische Zeitung* calls Mr. Blaine "a diplomatic brawler, quite capable of conjuring up war with any European power."

The *Tagblatt* thinks "the matter not serious." It is convinced that Mr. Blaine, "the personification of Yankee haughtiness," has not kept within the limits of international courtesy. It is reported that mysterious warnings, sent by the Mafia, have been conveyed to King Humbert of Italy. The Mafia is said to have demanded protection for Italian residents in foreign countries. It is further believed, according to this story, that the recall of the Italian Minister at Washington is largely owing to the fears of the Italian Minister aroused by Mafia threats.

The *Vossische Zeitung* announces that the United States law for the inspection of pork and bacon will probably form the basis for fresh negotiations for the abolition of its prohibition.

The *Cologne Gazette* says the Bulgarian Government has made a contract with the Krupp works for large supplies of war material to strengthen Bulgarian defences.

Influenza is again raging in this city, and many deaths are reported.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 1st.
A military tribunal has sentenced Prince Vadholsky to three years' detention in a fortress for killing Lieutenant Monosoff in a duel.

GIBRALTAR, April 1st.
Thirty more bodies have been recovered from the wreck of the steamship *Utopia*, making the total number recovered 423.

MADRID, April 1st.
The Queen Regent gave a cordial reception to General J. W. Foster, representative of the United States in the Hispano-American commercial treaty negotiations.

KANSAS CITY, April 1st.
Two branches of the Mormon Church at Independence, Mo., known respectively as the "Hendricksites" and the "Reorganized Church," are fighting for the possession of Mount Zion, a low hill about four acres in extent, which was selected by Joshua Smith as the place where all the elect will assemble on the judgment day, and from there be taken into heaven. The Mormons believe that the foundations of a magnificent temple were laid many years ago by the Angel Gabriel, and that his hosts will descend from heaven, uncover these foundations, and in a single night erect a beautiful temple. The Hendricksites have a church on Mount Zion and the Reorganized Church is contesting the title. Last night the church building was completely wrecked. The Hendricksites claim the desecration was by the other faction.

WASHINGTON, April 1st.
The recall of Baron Fava by the Italian Government still forms the chief topic of interest in this country as well as abroad. The cable dispatches from Rome show clearly that the American Minister was unable to appeal to the

common-sense of the Italian Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs. That official declared our Constitution should be amended if it provided for no speedy redress from the Louisiana State Government and refused to permit any further delay. The letter of Baron Fava, announcing his recall, presents the two demands of Italy. One was that assurance be given of the prompt punishment of those guilty of the killing at New Orleans; the other was that indemnity be granted to the relatives of the slain Italians. Secretary Blaine in reply very plainly shows that the United States cannot grant assurance of the punishment of those who shot the New Orleans prisoners, because such assurance would nullify any trial by jury. All that it can do is to see that the usual procedure on the indictment and trial of the accused be carried out. As for indemnity, he declares the Government has been willing to grant it. Blaine sent this letter to the Italian Charge d'affaires in order to ascertain whether Italy has severed all diplomatic relations with the United States. If this official replies it will prove that these relations are still maintained.

Dispatches from Rome indicate that Premier Rudini has been forced by the opposition under Crispi to demand Fava's recall. The English papers are very frank in their expressions of lack of belief in the genuineness of the demand; they believe Rudini is playing to the gallery, but they suggest that Italy may regret her hasty action, that is likely to lead to the injury of her American trade and the restriction of Italian immigration.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, April 1st.

The elections just held have resulted in a complete triumph for the Liberals. It is reported the situation in which the Insurgents are placed is a most deplorable one. Everything is at famine prices, and the supply of coal is exhausted. The insurgent squadrons are scouring the coast in the hope of capturing the colliers. The Chilean Government flotilla is almost ready to proceed against the rebel ships. A desperate conflict appears to be inevitable.

CITY OF MEXICO, April 1st.

President Diaz opened Congress last night. In his speech he referred to the ratification of the boundary convention with the United States. "The changes," he said, "are proposed in the Extradition treaty with the United States."

DUSSELDORF, April 1st.

The representatives of all the German steamship lines engaged in carrying emigrants to the United States have decided to raise the price of steerage fares to America 20 marks from and after the 1st of April.

OTTAWA (Ontario), April 1st.

Medical men detailed to investigate the cases of leprosy recently discovered at Victoria have pronounced it of the Oriental type. Immediate steps will be taken to hunt up the afflicted Chinamen and return them to China. It is stated that within the past year the scourge has made great headway in the Pacific Province, and that it has reached a point that will imperil the settlement of British Columbia, unless the Government take immediate steps to wipe it out.

WESTERN SHANTUNG.

It is a matter of frequent observation with travellers in China, that its ancient cities are disappointing. As a rule there is the greatest difficulty in identifying sites, and when the situation of some place of historical interest is ascertained, all that presents itself to the curious gaze of the investigator is a mound of earth, and a mosaic of broken tiles and bits of brick.

There is a strange propensity on the part of the Chinese to move their cities about, sometimes to great distances, so that it is often only the name which is continuous. Occasionally the record of this fact is preserved in the addition of the word "New" to the name of some cities, but not infrequently there is no warning of the alteration. Some of these changes are no doubt due to a laudable impulse to exchange an inconvenient situation for a better one. Some are to be credited to geomancy, in Oriental countries always a powerful factor in political affairs; and still others are due to superstition, such as leads to the demolition of a city wall and its transplantation when several cases of partridge have occurred within it.

Of some of the preceding remarks, Kao-fang Chow, in this province, is an interesting example. This is a very ancient place, which is marked on Mr. Oxenham's Historical Atlas as in existence during the time of the Spring and Autumn Annals, representing China from 722 to 483 B.C. A city which was perhaps built before Rome was founded, ought to have some claims on the Occidental traveller, although he is not a professional antiquarian. But he is met at the outset by the same difficulty which everywhere confronts him in China, that there is no one can tell him what he wants to know, and no books from which to gain information.

It is true that every walled city, is theoretically the seat of a volume of Historical Records (but these are generally very difficult to procure, and often wholly out of print). The political disturbances of the past half century have been so many and so serious, that in many instances city records have not only not been revised, but the originals have been lost in the Taping rebellion. This seems to be the case in Kao-fang, for although such a volume is accessible by pulling the proper wires, the blocks from which it was printed are said to have perished in the terrible ruin which engulfed the city at its capture a little more than thirty years ago. The rebels had just devastated Linching, and there was ample warning of their impending arrival, so that all the population deserted the city, at the advice (or command) of the district magistrate, who felt himself to be "between the devil and the deep-sea."

If he abandoned the city which he was set to govern, he was undone; if he remained, he was a dead man. Realising the hopelessness of the dilemma, he behaved with the dignity of a Confucianist, and in the teaching of the Classics, which teach that "The scholar, trained for public duty, seeing threatening danger, is prepared to sacrifice his life." Alone of all the inhabitants of the city, the magistrate remained in the city, the gate of which were left wide open. He seated himself in the public hall, dressed in his robes of office, until the rebels actually entered the courts of the yamen, when he threw himself into the wall in the back part of the premises, and was drowned.

The Talpings occupied the city thus easily gained, for many months, and destroyed almost every ancient landmark in and about the walls. One of these was a hill called Chi Ming-Shan, or the Mountain of the Crowing Cock. Each morning before any of the galling fowls had given warning of the coming of the day, a golden cock within this mound uttered the first sound of this nature and as soon as this signal was given every other cock hastened to follow. Of this famous place, nothing remains but a heap of rubbish.

Another landmark was an ancient pagoda, which had a legendary connection with the fate of the city, but of which nothing remains but its base. One of the most singular tales told in connection with this city is of the former existence of a large fountain, which burst from an underground spring, and which is said to have resembled the

Intimations.

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NEW PREMISES.

COLONIAL HOUSE.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1891. [368]

one in the south-west suburb of the capital of the province. But at some time which tradition will not fix, this spring was absolutely snuffed out, in exactly the same manner as a candle is put out by an extinguisher. According to uniform tradition, a huge kettle was placed over the bubbling fountain, and the water, unable to make its escape, retreated into the earth, and was never more seen! In testimony of the existence of such a stream, large channels which it once occupied are still to be seen, bridges (all in ruins) by which it was crossed, and the posts between which the flood made its way into the city, and out again, the wall, as is usual in such cases, having no north gate.

What motive could have led to this supposed effacement of a beautiful flowing stream of pure water, no one is at the trouble to suggest. But all are agreed in the statement that within the past three or four years, a district magistrate who occupied the yamen spent several hundred taels in the effort to discover the site of the former spring, which he wished to bring back again. Every one says that the motives of this official were of the best. He had no possible object but the good of the city. He employed a large army of men digging for a long time but he totally failed. And why? Because the people, who could have told him where to dig, would not, but on the contrary purposely misled him. And why did they do that? Because they were afraid that if they should dig in the right place, and bring the water back, the result would be to flood some of their land, and spoil the wheat-crop for the next year. So the effort failed, and the money was wasted, and an excellent rehearsal of the future history of "Reform" in China was enacted by the Kao-fang people, without their being aware of it.

The streets of this ancient city are sunk far below the level of the surrounding country, like those in the vicinity of Peking and other Chinese places of former celebrity. The traveller can hardly fail to be impressed with the thought of the mighty past of which such a place has been the witness. When his historical reverence has attained its most extreme point, he is more often pained to be told by a venerable man in official life (who evidently knows what he is saying) that this is not after all the true "ancient Kao-fang," for that lies *stilly* to the eastward, and has nothing whatever to mark it but a slight ridge of earth!

The grain tax in our region has been collected at last, after the magistrate has spent three times as long at the market-town on the river as usual. The reason for the long delay was the high price of millet, and the unwillingness of the people to sell their crops for less than the price of buying grain so much money as they must do at present rates. It is customary to collect rice or ten thousand piculs in grain, which is to be delivered at the granary, on the river. When the requisition has been met, another notification is issued requiring the remainder to be paid for in money, at the district city. Many local constables were severely beaten, because the people were all "holding off," waiting for others to pay in grain, that they themselves might take advantage of the option of paying in money. The reason for the difference in cost is the fact that owing to false measurements, each bushel as delivered really amounts to a bushel and a third. This is accomplished by heaping up the grain, till no more can be piled on the measure. In the cash payments at the yamen, the rate, strange to say, is fixed one from which there is said to be no variation.

The taxes of the regions most severely flooded have been altogether remitted for a year. In other places, the autumn tax was remitted, but not the spring tax, which is always paid in money. —N. C. Daily News.

Today's Advertisements.

ZETLAND LODGE,
No. 325.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above named Lodge will be held in the FREEMAN'S Hall, Zetland Street, THIS EVENING, the 11th May, at 8 o'clock, O'CLOCK, precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1891. [616]

NOTICE.

IN view of the approaching departure of the GOVERNOR all outstanding claims by Trade-men against His Excellency should be forwarded before MONDAY next, at Noon, to the Private Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1891. [658]

NOTICE.

THE WARD ROOM OFFICERS of H.M.S. *Victor Emmanuel* give notice that they are NOT RESPONSIBLE for any DEBTS contracted on or after the 1st May, 1891, by their Messian **QUAN LONG** or any other Person.

Hongkong, 30th April, 1891. [659]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

FROM this date and until further notice, Mr. E. J. NO. BOARDS has been appointed ACTING SECRETARY of the above Club.

By Order,
C. H. GRACE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1891. [611]

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE Steamship

"ASHINGTON,"
Captain C. Zindel, will be despatched for the above Port TO-MORROW, the 2nd instant, at 4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
SIEMSEN & Co.,
Hongkong, 1st May, 1891. [652]

FORMOSA TRADING CORPORATION.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.

THE Steamship

"SMITH,"
Captain Leffer, will be despatched for the above Ports on MONDAY, the 4th inst., at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
TUCK YUE & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1891. [654]

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

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THE Steamship

"GUTHRIE,"
Captain Shannon, will be despatched for the above Ports on SATURDAY, the 16th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1891. [653]

TREASURY NOTICE.

THE RATING ORDINANCE, 1888.

THE VALUATION LIST for VICTORIA for 1891-92 is open to inspection at the Treasury for Twenty-one Days, commencing from MONDAY, the 4th May. Extracts may be taken.

This Valuation will be in force from July 1st, 1891, to June 30th, 1892.

The last day for appeal to the Supreme Court will be May 23rd. Besides lodging a Formal Appeal in the Court, stating the grounds of such Appeal a copy of such notice must also be sent to the Assessor on or before that date.

The Valuation Lists for the Hill District, Kowloon, and the Villages will be open to inspection later on, of which due notice will be given.

Where the Valuation of any Tenement has been altered from that now in force, the Assessor has sent notice of such change to the Owner, if his address is known, or if not, to the Occupier, with a request that he will hand the same to the Owner. The omission to serve such notice does not invalidate the Rate, or form any excuse for not appealing against any Assessment within the prescribed time, viz. May 4th to May 23rd, 1891. All Owners or Occupiers interested in rateable property should therefore inspect the Rate Book within this period.

ARTHUR CHAPMAN,
Assessor.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1891. [657]

NOTICE.

THE PARTNERSHIP hitherto existing between the Undersigned has been Dissolved from this date by mutual consent. All former Settlements will be attended to by Mr. C. H. POTTS.

POTTS & BARFF.

WITH reference to the above I shall continue the Business of a SHARE and GENERAL BROKER.

